

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4361

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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SECSTATE PASS SAHEL TASK FORCE

WASH POUCH NOUAKCHOTT

AIDAC

DAKAR, NIAMEY, YAOUNDE FOR RDO ABIDJAN FOR REDSO USEC FOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SAHEL TASK FORCE MEETING WITH MINISTER DAKOURE, CILSS

REF: (A) NDJAMENA 1652; (B) NOUAKCHOTT 944, (C) DAKAR 4471

(D) OUAGADOUGOU 2187

SUMMARY: FEI, SNYDER, AND HELMAN HAD EXTENSIVE, BUT INFORMAL AND RESPONSIVE MEETING WITH DAKOURE DURING WHICH FEI OUTLINED PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF SHORT-TERM PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS, INDICATED SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM AREAS AND IN RESPONSE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTS FROM DAKOURE OUTLINED PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED IN

UPPER VOLTA.

1. FEI PRESENTED SYNOPSIS OF HOW TEAM WAS RECEIVED IN EACH COUNTRY AND OF PROGRAM ELEMENTS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY; BEING THOSE REPEATED IN REFTELS. IT WAS ALSO INDICATED TO DAKOURE THAT (A) MEDIUM-TERM ELEMENTS HAD ALSO BEEN ITEMIZED AND WOULD BE DEFINED OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, AND (B) FINANCING FOR ALL PROGRAMS WERE DEPENDENT ON PENDING LEGISLATION, AS HE WAS AWARE, AND SAHEL TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE COORDINATED IN WASHINGTON WITH RESPECT TO BUDGET/PROGRAM LIMITATIONS. DAKOURE ASKED FIRST FOR EXPLANATION OF MANNER PROGRAM ELEMENTS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH HIGH-LEVEL AFRICAN OFFICIALS IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES. IT WAS INDICATED THAT IDEAS WERE PRESENTED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL BY STATES, REVIEWED BY TASK FORCE WITH GOVERNMENT TECHNICIANS AND OTHER DONORS WITH SELECTED AND POSSIBLY RE-DEFINED PROJECTS AGAIN REVIEWED AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL IN ALL COUNTRIES BEFORE TEAM'S DEPARTURE EXCEPT CHAD, WHEREIN KEY MINISTER, DJEMENA ABDOULAYE, WAS ABSENT AT TIME OF DEPARTING. FEI NOTED THAT MINISTER DJEMENA ON HIS RETURN HAD RAISED SOME CONCERNS ABOUT CHADIAN PROGRAM TO WHICH DAKOURE RESPONDED BY OFFERING TO INTERCEDE WITH CHADIAN MINISTER. SINCE WE DID NOT HAVE EXPLANATION FROM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA INDICATING NATURE OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY CHADIAN MINISTER, IT WAS INDICATED TO DAKOURE THAT PREMATURE TO SOLICITE ASSISTANCE WITHOUT BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM. COMMENT: DAKOURE DOES NOT EXPECT CALL FROM AMEMBASSY TO FOLLOW-UP OFFER BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE INITIATIVE SHOULD IT BE CONSIDERED DESIRABLE THAT HE DO SO.

2. DAKOURE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT REFORESTATION WAS NOT AMONG PRINCIPAL PROGRAMS OUTLINED BY FEI. FEI REPORTED THAT REFORESTATION HAD BEEN REQUESTED IN ONLY TWO COUNTRIES (UPPER VOLTA AND NIGER) AND THAT SUCH ELEMENTS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN PROGRAM IN THESE COUNTRIES.

3. FEI OUTLINED SEVERAL PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WHICH TEAM HAD ENCOUNTERED, AND WHICH BORE RELATIONSHIP TO INFLUENCE CILSS MIGHT HAVE AMONG SAHEL STATES: (A) ORGANIZATION AND COLLECTION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION. DAKOURE WAS SYMPATHETIC BUT NOT SEEMINGLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS RELATIVELY NON-GLAMOROUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ROLE FOR CILSS, WITH CAVEAT THAT NUMEROUS KINDS OF STATISTICS SHOULD BE COLLECTED AT NATIONAL LEVEL; (B) ABSENCE OF A STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT WHICH HAD IN FACT RESULTED IN TASK FORCE DECISION NOT TO UNDERTAKE DEEP WELL DRILLING IN ANY OF SAHEL STATES; DAKOURE DEPLORED ABSENCE OF STRATEGY WHICH LED TO DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ROLE OF CILSS IN ORGANIZING SECTOR SEMINARS, AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED BY IBRAHIMA KONATE. DAKOURE SUPPORTED THIS IDEA; (C) ABSENCE

OF PRESENTATION IN ALL SIX STATES OF REQUESTS FOR PROJECTS INVOLVING RE-SETTLEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION FOR NOMADS; DAKOURE OFFERED ARTICULATE BUT CLASSICAL EXPLANATION AS TO WHY STATES WOULD NOT NOW NOR LIKELY IN NEAR FUTURE COME FORWARD WITH PROJECTS IN THESE AREAS.

4. DAKOURE ASKED FEI TO OUTLINE PROGRAM ELEMENTS IN UPPER VOLTA STATING THAT IF THERE WERE CHOICES OR DECISIONS TO BE MADE ON THESE PROGRAM ELEMENTS, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE THEM. FEI OUTLINED PROJECT ELEMENTS IN GENERAL TERMS INDICATED IN REF (D), WITHOUT ANY INDICATION OF ASSISTANCE LEVELS.

5. DAKOURE'S OVERALL REACTION WAS THAT IN BOTH UPPER VOLTA PROGRAM AND IN AREAS OF CONCENTRATION FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TASK FORCE HAD WORKED WITHIN PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED BY SAHEL STATES AT OUAGADOUGOU MEETING. HE SEEMED QUITE PLEASED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS.

6. WISH NOTE TWO INTERESTING ASIDES: (1) IN CONNECTION WITH AVAILABILITY OF POTENTIALLY FERTILE LAND IN UPPER VOLTA AS THROUGH ONCHOCERCIASIS PROGRAM DAKOURE COMMENTED WITH QUITE CONSIDERABLE RECEPTIVITY ON IMPORTANCE OF CONTROL OF POPULATION INCREASE WITHIN ANY INTEGRATED EFFORT TO IMPROVE HUMAN PRODUCTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS; AND (2) WITH RESPECT TO SAHEL STATE MINISTERS, WHO MET WITH MIT GROUP IN WASHINGTON ON OCTOBER 15. DAKOURE STATED THAT HE WAS QUITE SATISFIED WITH MEETING AND FEELING THAT IT HAD CLARIFIED FOR ALL SIX STATES MIT'S OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH. DAKOURE ADDED THAT AFRICAN MINISTERS HAD EXPRESSED TO D.A. WILLIAMS AND TO M.I.T. THAT WORK BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY AFRICAN STATES.
IRWIN

NOTE BY OCT: POUCHED NOUAKCHOTT.
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